Memorial Day
Offering Malachus
April 30, 1937
" 30, 1948

OFFENDING MALCHUS

John 18:10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear(the servant's name was Malchus).

INTRO. Memorial Day should beobserved
Its humble, sincere and generous beginning.
Women of Columbus, Mississippi, Apr.28,1866
Francis Miles Scott-"The Blue and the Gray"
As now observed, originated in 1868 when Gen.John A.Lo
Llgan, Com.in Chief of G.A.R. ordered that all soldiers graves be decorated Apr.30th.

Let us pay silent tribute to our soldier dead.

Full of love and pride for our soldier dead, my heart, nevertheless, is full of sadness to-day.
Funeral March of Youth-read from N.Y.Times

What is the matter with the world to-day? Why are we in such a mess? Why must the nations prepare their youth for wholesale slaughter? Why has religion, edufation and government failed to save us from this terrible future? Is it solely the fault of religion? Has Xty failed? What is the matter with our educational system? Or is gov'nt to blame? And what can we do about it? Is there no help for the widows and orphans of future soldiers? Are we ever going to stop digging dead graves

I need not tell you that I am incapable of answering adequately these questions. The more is the pity that I cannot. Nor shall I attempt so to do. But this morning I wish to present one phase of human experience that may help you the better understand and the more effectively to help clean up the world's mess.

The almost forgotten incident of Malchus.
Jesus and the disciples caught in a trap.
"Lord, shall we smite with the sword?"
Without thinking Peter whips out his sword and strikes the servant of the high priest-Malchus.
This act of Peter's holds a profound truth.
Malchus deserved a better fate.
With the crowd but not of it.
Secty of high priest and a Greek, and present as a matter of duty.
Not interested in Jewish messianic hopes nor antagonistic to Jesus.

Malchus an innocent victim, but the fact remains that he was injured by a follower of Jesus, by contact with the wrong kind of Christian.

How often one meets with this kind of experience! Many people hurt, wounded and scarred by followers of Jesus! Malchus stands not so much as an individual as a type, a representative victim of the wrong kind of Christians, educators, statesmen and business men.

I. Take the story of Christianity and the nations.

1. The phenomenal spread of Xty in the Orient at the turn of the century.
Carrying the evangel of love and good will, missionaries were everywhere welcomed.
Established schools, founded hospitals, built colleges and erected hospitals

2. Then something happened which changed the whole attitude of the orient.
Oriental students sent to be educated in the schools of this so-called Xn civilization returned with their souls dulled, duped and tricked by materialism and a mechanistic order, carrying back with them to the orient ribald songs, lurid night clubs salacious movies and cocktail bars& And on top of it the men of the West taught them the tricks of sweatshops, child labor, mass production.
Then came the war when Xn civilization assume leadership in the most bloody slaughter the world has ever known. Followers of Christ, kneeling before the cross and trusting in the same sacrific leapt at one anothers throats until rivers of human blodd ran over Europe, 13 million left dead 7 million left widows and 7 million left orphans.
Then the oriental was shocked, turned his back on Xty and returned to his pagan gods. What a pitiful story it is- just the story of Malchus all over again- wounded because he came in contact with the wrong kind of Xty.

3. Then there is the story of Russia. Sad enough that the Xn religion was thrown out, but the saddest thing about it is that after 1000 yrs of existance in Russia the Xn religion it was not able to commend itself sufficiently to the people so that when the revolutio came it was cast out with the other trumperies of imperialism. — Is the story all over again of Peter wounding Malchus

4. The same story has been enacted in South America and in Africa

Racial hatreds in Christian lands, including U.S.

Political and economic hatreds
Every nation striving for commercial supremacy, desiring to control the world markets.
Lockouts and strikes and class hatreds are increasing.
All such greed and selfishness, breeding strife and hatreds is wounding the innocent ones and causing many to hold the whole order of so-called Xn society in contempt. It is the story of Peter wounding Malchus over and over again.

II. Which shall it be- the Sword or the Cross?

1. The objective is the same. Peter an ardent follower of Jesus wanted the Kingdom of God to come and thot it right to defend Jesus. Jesus had no quarrel with Peter's purpose, but he did object to the method Peter used- the sword, force, revenge, hate.
Peter's weapon was destruction and estrangement
Our Lord commanded him immediately, "Put up thy sword in its place, for all they that take the sword shall perish by the sword."

The method ofPeter was a sword
The method of Jesus was a cross.
Peter sought revebge- Jesus saught reconciliati
Peter said, "Kill them" Jesus said, "Forgive them
Peter said, "Let us fight it out."
Jesus said, "Let us suffer it thru",
Peter said, "Let me advance the kingdom with a sword",
Jesus said, "Hang me on a cross and I will draw all men unto me."

Seemingly the way of Peter was right. Jesus was hung on a tree as a common criminal. Love seemed to fai l in that hour and hate to triumph.

It is still difficult for the world to believe that th method of Peter can lose and that the way of Jesus can win.
To-day we are going back to the way of Peter.

However difficult it is to believe in the way of Jesus, the fact remains that the sword never settles an issue, exploitation of the innocent and helpless, racial and class hatreds, strikes and wars never promote peace and good will and friendship.

On the other hand the Cross method of Jesus does lead to reconciliation.

Malchus, later on became an ardent follower of Jesus and a loyal worker in the church.

The sword of Peter estranged, the cross of Christ reconciled.

It is so today. Revenge and hate leave scars, but the cross of love and forgiveness bring about reconciliation. Not Peter but Jesus speaks the last word.

When Gen.Grant was traveling in Europe and the Near East he proposed to visit Palestine. Military leaders asked permission to confer upon him a high military honor when he would visit Jerusalem. Grant, the true Xn he was, sent the following reply:"I will permit no man to do me honor as a soldier in a land where Jesus of Nazareth died upon the cross for the redemption of the world".

What the Xn world needs is not more Xns but better ones, Xns as leaders of religion, education, politics and business who will stand four-square for the method of Jesus in establishing friendship and good will among the peoples of the world.

In the long run the cross will triumph or else new civilizations will arise to take the place of present ones.